

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listing of the claims in the application:

- Claim 1 (Currently Amended) Method for the production of a sheet metal plate, ~~in particular of steel~~, for the manufacture of motor vehicle body components with at least one local reinforcement zone ~~(13, 14, 21, 22, 34 to 37)~~, characterised by comprising the following steps:
- a) producing, in ~~[[In]]~~ a continuous production process, a sheet metal strip (1) ~~is produced with strips (2 to 6) of differing thickness and/or quality running parallel to the longitudinal direction of the sheet strip~~~~[[.]]~~;
 - b) cutting individual ~~Individual~~ sheet metal sections ~~[[(7)]]~~ with straight cut edges ~~are cut to length from the sheet metal strip (1); and~~
 - c) joining a ~~[[A]]~~ first sheet metal section ~~[[(7)]]~~ of this sheet metal strip (1) ~~is joined to a second sheet metal section [[(9)]], with a join line [[(10)]]~~ running straight and transversely to the longitudinal direction of the strips (2, 3, 4, 5) of the first sheet metal section ~~(7)~~, in such a way that the local reinforcement zones (13, 14) come to lie in the strips (2, 3) with greater thickness and/or higher quality.
- Claim 2 (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the sheet metal plate is joined from two sheet metal sections (15, 16, 24, 25) of striated sheet strips ~~and, as appropriate, of one non-striated sheet strip.~~
- Claim 3 (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the striated sheet strips are differently striated.
- Claim 4 (Cancelled)
- Claim 5 (New) Method according to claim 2, wherein the sheet metal plate is jointed from two sheet metal sections of striated sheet strips and of one non-striated sheet strip.
- Claim 6 (New) Method according to claim 1, wherein the sheet metal plate is steel.